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ART 123A.07: Drawing Fundamentals

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The University of Montana

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Drawing Fundamentals

Alex Kraft

- “Make a Drawing”
- Familiarize materials
- Elements and Principles
- Gesture Drawing
- Contour Drawing
- Composition
- Space
- Negative/ Positive Space
- Proportion (measuring, viewfinder)
- Cross Contour
- Perspective
- Value (chiaroscuro, high contrast)
- Content/ Context
- Final Series

Drawing Fundamentals Art 123

Contact:

Alex Kraft 406 370 8732

As this is my personal line, please use discretion and call only if **absolutely necessary**.

Attendance:

Each student is permitted **one unexcused** absence. Leave this absence for illness, emergency, etc. Institutional excuses need to be given to me in advance of the day of absence.

Your attendance grade is **thirty percent** of your overall grade. Each student begins the semester with **150 attendance points**. Every **unexcused absence deducts 20 points** from this total. Misuse of class time also subtracts points from attendance.

Do not schedule work or meetings during class time. **If you are not in class for the entire length of class, you will be considered absent.** If you miss a class, it is your job to get missed information. Ask your classmate. Your absence is **not** an excuse to miss regular deadlines. There isn't any flexibility in this policy.

The art department requires an additional five hours **minimum** of studio work time per student outside of the scheduled class meeting times.

Course Description:

This is an introduction to drawing and design. Technical concerns including exploration of both traditional and experimental media and methods will be emphasized. By tradition, drawing has been fundamental to understanding all visual media. Our primary concern is expanding the student's ability to experience and state their world in visual terms. The factors of visual communication and informed perception will be introduced. Finally, students will better understand the obstacles and options that confront one when drawing from nature or imagination.

Photographic source material:

Learning to draw is about translating the three-dimensional visual world into a two-dimensional representation. Do not use photography or any pre-existing graphics as models for drawing in this course unless specifically assigned.

Portfolio:

All work done both in and out of class must be saved for your final and midterm portfolio review. Take care not to damage drawings by storing them in a portfolio (available in cardboard for @ \$5 at the bookstore).

Grading Policy:

A misconception of many intro drawing students is to believe that "art is supposed to be easy and fun." Be prepared for art to be hard, time consuming, and requiring of discipline. Why else would Van Gogh chop his ear off? Just wanting to be free and creative does not make successful art.

Your coming to class and completing assignments does not assure a certain grade. If you are unsure about your grade, ASK. Show up to class. Try new things. Be open to new ways of making art.

Making art is a constant search. Engaging in this search in a genuine and meaningful way is your best chance at improving. Half-hearted work is just that. It will be graded accordingly.

The meat and bones:

30% Homework

30% Attendance/Participation

20% Portfolio

10% Sketchbook/Notebook

10% Final Project

Incompletes:

If there is a problem, inform me A.S.A.P. An arrangement may be worked out but is not guaranteed.

Evaluating:

Projects will be graded on the following:

- Execution and Craftsmanship
- Effort
- Application of Assigned technique(s)
- Content/Overall finished product.

Students must demonstrate:

- Constructive participation in discussion
- Willingness to explore new ideas and take chances
- Critique- Present pieces, demonstrating an understanding of the project's concepts and objectives.

Homework:

In addition to the daily sketchbook, homework in the form of finished drawings will be assigned. In general, an assignment will be due for a preliminary critique one week from the date it was assigned. Showing up to class without your preliminary homework will reflect poorly on your final grade.

Each student will share their progress with the class at this time. Suggestions will be made for improving the work. Keeping this advice in mind, the student will have one more week to improve the drawing before the final critique the following week.

Expect these homework assignments to take time, a **minimum** of four hours. Students who finish a single interpretation of the assignment in less time are urged to expand the objective of the assignment or repeat the exercise. **Late work will be docked twenty points per class day that I do not receive it.** If it was due on Friday and you give it to me Wednesday, your 100% has become a 60%.

Deadlines:

All work must be ready for critique or grading on the appropriate deadline. If you are not satisfied with your grade on any homework assignment, it can be re-done once. Speak with me to before re-doing an assignment.

Sketchbook:

This is a BIG one. This is 10% of your final grade. Students are required to keep a daily sketchbook. ***Twenty to thirty minutes*** are required to be put into drawing in the sketchbook five days a week. This is the student's individual responsibility. I will not be collecting and grading this until the end of the semester, but may occasionally ask to flip through to make sure each student is heading in the right direction. I reserve the right to take points off of the student's Attendance/Participation grade for the day if the sketchbook is unsatisfactory. The completed sketchbook with **dated** drawings is an essential part of your portfolio. Check with me periodically to make sure you are progressing well.

You may ask "WHY? WHY? WHY?" Significant improvement in your drawing skills cannot be accomplished during class time alone. It is more important to draw a half an hour a day than six hours on Saturday. Students who have success in this class have done an outstanding job in their sketchbooks. Draw from life. Draw what and whom you see around you. Experiment and practice techniques learned in class. Please note: This is a daily sketchbook. A minimum number of drawings to obtain a "C" are five. Substantial work, both in quality and quantity is needed to obtain a "B" or higher.

Art 123 Class Contract
Instructor: Alex Kraft

I understand that this is not a club med class.

1. I am fully aware that this class begins at _____, not _____, not _____.
2. I will respect the library atmosphere of the class.
3. I will focus on my work.
4. I will respect studio policies including clean-up at the end of class.
5. I will keep my walkman volume down in order to hear the instructor.

I am committed to working for an A or a B.

1. I will attend class regularly, arrive on time and stay for the duration.
2. I will obtain the necessary materials and equipment to do the work.
3. I understand the class requires a minimum of 6 hours of work outside class time per week, perhaps more.
4. I understand grades are given for results not just for time and effort.
5. I understand the instructor does not evaluate my work on personal opinion or personal likes or dislikes, but on a professional evaluation of the quality of the work as compared to the university level courses in this and other institutions.

I HAVE READ AND AGREED TO ALL REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES AS LISTED IN THE SYLLABUS AND THIS CONTRACT.

SIGNATURE: _____ date: _____

Print name: _____